

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) A method of port sharing among a plurality of processes running on a server, the method comprising the steps of:

in a port-mapping program located on a server and configured between a shared port and a plurality of processes running on said server, receiving an incoming data packet having a header containing a first port number and a first address of a process;

comparing said first port number and said first address to entries in a port-sharing-table that contains, for each of said plurality of processes that share a port, a respective shared port number, a respective address, and a respective assigned port number; and

if said first port number and said first address are equal to a respective shared port number and a respective address for a given process, replacing said first port number in said header with a respective assigned port number for said given process.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein first address and said respective addresses each identify domain names for a process of said plurality of processes.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in an operating system.

36. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in a program that runs in conjunction with an operating system.

37. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in hardware.

38. (New) A method of sharing a port among a plurality of processes on a server, the method comprising the steps of:

in a port-mapping program located on a server and configured between a shared port and a plurality of processes running on said server, receiving an outgoing data packet having a header containing a first port number and a first address of a process;

comparing said first port number and said first address to entries in a port-sharing-table that contains, for each of said plurality of processes that share a port, a respective shared port number, a respective address, and a respective assigned port number; and

if said first port number and said first address are equal to a respective assigned port number and a respective address for a given process, replacing said first port number in said header with a respective shared port number for said given process.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein first address and said respective addresses each identify domain names for a process of said plurality of processes.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in an operating system.

41. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in a program that runs in conjunction with an operating system.

42. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in hardware.

43. (New) A server configured for port sharing among a plurality of processes, comprising:

a processor;

a memory connected to be accessed by said processor;

a port configured to carry information between said processor and an external bus;

a plurality of processes configured to execute on said processor; and

a port-mapping program configured between said port and said plurality of processes, wherein said port-mapping program contains

first instructions for receiving an incoming packet having a header containing a first port number and a first address of a process;
second instructions for comparing said first port number and said first address to entries in a port-sharing-table that contains, for each of said plurality of processes that share a port, a respective shared port number, a respective address, and a respective assigned port number; and
third instructions for, if said first port number and said first address are equal to a respective shared port number and a respective address for a given process, replacing said first port number in said header with a respective assigned port number for said given process.

44. (New) The server of claim 43, wherein first address and said respective addresses each identify domain names for a process of said plurality of processes.

45. (New) The server of claim 43, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in an operating system.

46. (New) The server of claim 43, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in a program that runs in conjunction with an operating system.

47. (New) The server of claim 43, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in hardware.

48. (New) A server configured for port sharing among a plurality of processes, comprising:

- a processor;
- a memory connected to be accessed by said processor;
- a port configured to carry information between said processor and an external bus;
- a plurality of processes configured to execute on said processor; and
- a port-mapping program configured between said port and said plurality of processes, wherein said port-mapping program contains

first instructions for receiving an outgoing packet having a header containing a first port number and a first address of a process;

second instructions for comparing said first port number and said first address to entries in a port-sharing-table that contains, for each of said plurality of processes that share a port, a respective shared port number, a respective address, and a respective assigned port number; and

third instructions for, if said first port number and said first address are equal to a respective shared port number and a respective address for a given process, replacing said first port number in said header with a respective shared port number for said given process.

49. (New) The server of claim 48, wherein first address and said respective addresses each identify domain names for a process of said plurality of processes.

50. (New) The server of claim 48, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in an operating system.

51. (New) The server of claim 48, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in a program that runs in conjunction with an operating system.

52. (New) The server of claim 48, wherein said port-mapping program is implemented in hardware.

53. (New) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for port sharing among a plurality of processes, comprising:

first instructions for receiving an incoming packet having a header containing a first port number and a first address of a process;

second instructions for comparing said first port number and said first address to entries in a port-sharing-table that contains, for each of said plurality of processes that share a port, a respective shared port number, a respective address, and a respective assigned port number; and

third instructions for, if said first port number and said first address are equal to a respective shared port number and a respective address for a given process, replacing said first port number in said header with a respective assigned port number for said given process.

54. (New) The computer program of claim 53, wherein first address and said respective addresses each identify domain names for a process of said plurality of processes.

55. (New) The computer program of claim 53, wherein said computer program is configured to run as part of an operating system.

56. (New) The computer program of claim 53, wherein said computer program is configured to run as a program that runs in conjunction with an operating system.

57. (New) The computer program of claim 53, wherein said first, second, and third instructions are coded in hardware.

58. (New) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for port sharing among a plurality of processes, comprising:

first instructions for receiving an incoming packet having a header containing a first port number and a first address of a process;

second instructions for comparing said first port number and said first address to entries in a port-sharing-table that contains, for each of said plurality of processes that share a port, a respective shared port number, a respective address, and a respective assigned port number; and

third instructions for, if said first port number and said first address are equal to a respective shared port number and a respective address for a given process, replacing said first port number in said header with a respective assigned port number for said given process.

59. (New) The computer program of claim 58, wherein first address and said respective addresses each identify domain names for a process of said plurality of processes.

60. (New) The computer program of claim 58, wherein said computer program is configured to run as part of an operating system.

61. (New) The computer program of claim 58, wherein said computer program is configured to run as a stand-alone program that runs in conjunction with an operating system.

62. (New) The computer program of claim 58, wherein said first, second, and third instructions are in hardware.